

11 October 1977

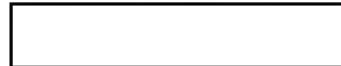
MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Information Systems Analysis Staff
STATINTL
FROM: Chief, Agency Archives and Records Center
SUBJECT: Guidelines for the Systematic Review for Declassification of 30-Year-Old COMINT Records
REFERENCE: National Security Agency Letter N0981 dated 25 August 1977

1. With your approval, I will suggest the following language to the National Security Agency as working guidelines for exclusive use in the systematic review for declassification of the CIA's 30-year-old records:

- a. All documents bearing a COMINT codeword are exempt from declassification and/or downgrading.
- b. Any document containing, or suspected of containing, either COMINT or information on COMINT activities, but unprotected by a codeword or special channel marking, must be referred to the National Security Agency for review and/or appropriate classification and control.
- c. Operational information concerning the acquisition and/or production of COMINT, or collaboration therein, by the US and its allies must remain classified.
- d. Pure collateral information transmitted solely for purposes of expediency via COMINT channels and marked "HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY" may be downgraded or declassified if general guidelines so permit.
- e. The declassification or downgrading of any COMINT material must be coordinated with NSA prior to release.

2. I will explain that this simplification of Letter N0981 will be used only in the "systematic" review under which there is no proviso for excision or sanitization of classified information.

SIGNED



STATINTL